

## 45 puppies find homes at animal adoption camp in Coimbatore

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COIMBATORE: For a month, S Shwetha nurtured a tiny creature that was abandoned on a road-and when the kitten was adopted on Sunday afternoon, she felt a pang while giving it away but was thrilled it had found a home.

A group of volunteers from Humane Animal Society held an adoption drive on Sunday at which 45 puppies and five kittens found homes. "The rest were sent back with their foster parents or to shelter homes," said Mini Vasudevan, head of Humane Animal Society (HAS) in the city.

HAS volunteers brought around 60 puppies and a few kittens for adoption on Sunday. "I love animals and whenever I find a dog or kitten that has been ill-treated, I take them home and foster them," said Shwetha, a volunteer with HAS, who owns four dogs and two cats.

"The kitten that was adopted had been left in a plastic bag on the road. She was about 20 days old. I saw dogs hovering around the bag and went to take a look. I gave her some medical care and brought her here when she was fit to be adopted," she says.

HAS provides medical care and vaccination for strays as well as sterilizes the animals that are adopted. "We want to remove all sorts of discrimination, especially against female dogs," said Mini.

People from across the state volunteer as foster parents to animals. Mohan and Girija Nair have been rescuing animals dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, birds, goats and cows for 14 years. "We moved from the US to India in 2000 and were upset when we realized that animals are left to stray on roads. Some are killed them and dumped in rivers. So we try to rescue and care for them," said Mohan. The couple brought three puppies for adoption.

The adoptive parents were happy to find new companions. "I wanted to adopt an Indian dog because they are hardier than pedigreed animals and stay healthy for a longer time," said Saravana Kumar, a businessman who adopted a two-month-old dog.

"We try and conduct these camps once a month but sometimes due to lack of funds, we are unable to hold them. We bring only Indian dogs and do not promote pedigreed breeds," said Mini. "Fostering is one of the key parts of such adoption camps. Our volunteers rescue animals and care for them by vaccinating and acting as their foster parents," said Mini.

K Srinivas, a volunteer, said, "If not adopted, the animals are looked after by foster parents. If, for some reason, they are unable to keep the animals, we move them to shelters."